

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 710

By Odom

A RESOLUTION honor and recognize J. J. Clark for his excellent coaching contributions as the University of Tennessee Women's Cross-Country and Track and Field Head Coach.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pride in specially recognizing and paying tribute to those coaches who, through their expertise and extraordinary success, have distinguished themselves in Tennessee collegiate sports; and

WHEREAS, J. J. Clark is one such estimable coach who has been with the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers Cross-Country and Track and Field teams for three years; and

WHEREAS, to succeed at cross-country and track and field, two of the most demanding sports, one must have a diligent work ethic, tremendous physical endurance, speed, strength, and agility; and

WHEREAS, Coach Clark has amassed an amazing record of 158-65-1 as Head Coach of the Lady Volunteers Cross-Country Team and Track and Field Team, a .708 winning percentage; and

WHEREAS, Coach Clark has led the Lady Vols to consecutive NCAA South Region Titles, and the women's cross-country team won the SEC Trophy in 2003; and

WHEREAS, during his time at Tennessee, Coach Clark has received two South Region Coach of the Year Awards and a SEC Coach of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, before coming to Tennessee, J. J. Clark was an assistant coach at the University of Florida for ten years; he led Florida to two SEC Titles in 1996 and 1997, and he was voted SEC Coach of the Year in 1996 and 1997; and

WHEREAS, while his accomplishments as the Lady Vols' cross-country coach are commendable, J. J. Clark is a nationally noted track and field coach; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Coach Clark led the Lady Vols' track and field team to a Southeastern Conference Championship, a fourth place finish at the NCAA Indoor Championships, and a seventh place finish in the NCAA Outdoor Championships; and

WHEREAS, in the 2005 season, Coach Clark led his team to garner both the Southeastern Conference Indoor Track and National Indoor Track Championships; and

WHEREAS, under Coach Clark's able leadership and guidance, Nicole Cook won the 800m National Title, and Brooke Novak, Dee Dee Trotter, Nicole Cook, and Lindsay Hyatt ran away with the Distance Medley Relay National Title; and

WHEREAS, committed to academics, J. J. Clark has maintained a near perfect graduation rate with his athletic teams; and

WHEREAS, coaching three SEC Athlete of the Year Award winners, Coach Clark also coached three-time Olympian Mark Everett to a #1 USA ranking and a #4 world ranking in the 800m; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, J. J. Clark was named the 1998 USA Elite Coach of the Year by Nike; and

WHEREAS, serving as a testament to his national prominence as a coach, Mr. Clark was named an Assistant Coach for the U. S. women's team at the 1999 IAAF World Track and Field Championships in Greece and Head Coach of the 2001 women's team in Edmonton Canada; and

WHEREAS, a tremendous athlete himself, J. J. Clark won the New Jersey High School State Title in the mile and two mile as a senior in 1982; and

WHEREAS, earning a scholarship to run track at Villanova, Mr. Clark ran the mile in under four minutes and qualified for the 1988 U. S. Olympic Trials; and

WHEREAS, Coach Clark epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and he deserves a prominent place among the elite coaches of the State of Tennessee and this nation; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that honor and recognize J. J. Clark for his excellent coaching contributions as the University of Tennessee Women's Cross-Country and Track and Field Head Coach.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.